

THE OMAHA BEE

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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROP.
H. ROSEWATER, Editor.

Notwithstanding the anti-polymorphic plank in the republican platform the

Mormon ranks continue to increase. Five hundred Mormon converts have sailed from

Queenstown for New York.

CLEVELAND will find he has an up-hill road to travel in the democratic national

convention. Tammany threatens to boot if he is nominated. He is not a good enough

democrat to suit the bourgeois.

The Union Pacific is going into the hands of a receiver. This is nothing new.

The Union Pacific has had several receivers. There was Carns; there was Church

Howe; there was Thurston; there was Frank Walters; and others to mention.

Some people may imagine that the going into the hands of a receiver is a

disastrous blow to the Union Pacific. This is not necessarily the case, however,

as some railroads flourish better in the hands of a receiver than they do in the

hands of the owners.

When it was announced that the Union Pacific was going into the hands of a

receiver, Frank Walters bought two yards of crape and dressed his stove-pipe in

mourning. We don't blame him, as the relation that he sustained towards the

Union Pacific was of the most intimate character.

One thing that the grand jury ought to investigate is the contractors' ring which

was organized for corruption purposes. While, perhaps, the contractors had to

form a syndicate, and put up money, owing to the obstinacy and avariciousness

of the mayor, it will do no harm to ascertain to what extent they have been

bled, to whom the money was paid, and what it was paid for.

At least the brigadiers are to be called into service. The court-martial of Judge-Ad-

vocate General Swain, which takes place some time this month, is to be composed

of brigadier-generals. Under the army regulations no officer can serve on a

court-martial who is inferior in rank to the accused. Under this regulation how

could General Sherman be tried by a court-martial, if he should commit any

offense which would warrant a trial?

MISTAKES will happen in the best regulated newspaper offices. The St. Louis

Globe-Democrat of Sunday, in its foreign dispatches says:

"From the Kaiser goes to Hainau. There he will have the company of his daughter, Louise Marie Elizabeth, the

Grand Duchess of Baden, and from Hainau the two will go to Boston."

This will be news to the Bostonians, but Kaiser Wilhelm will probably never

hear of it until the Omaha Bee is laid on his table.

Mr. EUGENE FIELD, of the Chicago News, touches the sympathetic chord

very tenderly, when he makes the following mournful allusions to a very

mournful subject:

"We can imagine the poignancy of the sorrow with which Dr. George L. Miller,

editor of the Omaha Herald, will receive the news of Samuel J. Tilden's positive

retirement from the political arena. Here was a man who loved Tilden with a love

that passed all human understanding. At the very mention of Tilden's name he

would incline his head reverentially and murmur a pater noster or Ave Maria.

"Twice a year he journeyed from his Nebraska lair to catch words of inspiration

as they fell from the lips of the Granary park sage, and whenever he had occasion

to use Mr. Tilden's name in his paper he always did so in large, black, capital

letters. And as a crowning proof of his idolatry of his statesmanly friend, he

named his favorite old scotch brood mare 'Samuel J. Tilden.' We doubt whether

the pages of history could furnish a more pathetic instance of heroic devotion.

This ardent zeal displayed by the Chicago Tribune for James G. Blaine is

attributed by envious rivals to the desire of its editor, Joseph Medill, for office.

The Chicago Tribune having charged him with being ambitious to fill the senatorial shoes of John A. Logan, Mr.

Medill has been compelled to emphatically refute the charge, as well as to

deny that he wants any office from the next president. He says that he is

"not a candidate for senator or any other office in the gift of the people or the

appointing power." Mr. Medill appreciates the fact that the editorship of a

newspaper like the Chicago Tribune is a more important and influential position

than United States senator, member of the cabinet, or any other office except

that of president. At best the tenure of any of these positions is for a very brief

period, while the editorship of a great daily is a life office, and is entirely un-

hampered by obligations which make the public man a slave to party and to

personal followers.

BISHOP SIMPSON.

Bishop Mathew Simpson, who is lying at the point of death at his home in Philadelphia, is one of the oldest, most prominent and influential bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church. His death will be generally regretted, and his loss will be sincerely felt and mourned by the Methodist denomination.

Bishop Simpson was a native of Ohio, having been born at Cadiz, June 10, 1811. At the age of eighteen years, while attending Manion college, subsequently merged into Allegheny college, he was elected a tutor in that institution. He graduated from this college in 1832, and studying medicine he was admitted to practice in 1833. During this year, however, he determined to enter the ministry and was licensed to preach in the Pittsburgh conference. In 1837 he was elected vice-president and professor of natural science in Allegheny college. Two years later he was elected president of Asbury University in Indiana, which position he filled for nine years.

In 1848 he became editor of the *Western Christian Advocate*, and in 1852 he was elected to the high office of bishop. In the discharge of his duties as bishop he visited and held conferences in all the states and most of the territories. Bishop Simpson was sent by the general conference as a delegate to the Irish and British conference in 1857, and was also a delegate to the Evangelical alliance in Berlin the same year, from whence he extended his travels through Turkey, the Holy Land, Egypt and Greece, returning in 1858. In 1859 he changed his residence from Pittsburgh to Evanston, where he accepted the position as president of the Garrett Biblical institute, to which, however, he devoted but little active work. During the civil war he delivered a number of addresses in behalf of the union, and was urged by the secretary of war to undertake the organization of the freedmen at the establishment of the bureau, and was afterward invited by President Grant to go as a commissioner to San Domingo. Both of these offers he respectfully declined. In 1870, at the death of Bishop Kingsley, he visited Europe to complete the work which had been assigned to him on the continent, and also as a delegate to the English conference. In 1874 he visited Mexico, and in 1875 again visited Europe to hold the conference of Germany and Switzerland, and also to meet the missionaries in different parts of the continent. He has written "A Hundred Years of Methodism," and is editor of the *Cyclopaedia of Romanism*.

Bishop Simpson has certainly had a remarkably busy career, and was truly a great man. His influence was felt throughout the country, both in and out of the church. He was an orator of wonderful eloquence, and always commanded the deepest attention from his audience. He possessed superior business talents, and to this is attributed his success in the business affairs of the church. He was an ardent patriot, and during the civil war he rendered invaluable assistance to the administration with whom he was on terms of intimacy. Salmon P. Chase has received credit for originating the greenback currency, but now that Bishop Simpson is passing away the fact is recalled that Bishop Simpson had much to do with that measure and in suggesting many other financial measures of almost equal importance. He took a prominent part also in organizing the sanitary commission, and otherwise aided in every way in his power the cause of the union.

Our city council has an imperative duty to perform, which it cannot shrink. The mayor and marshal, the two chief executive officers of the city, have been indicted by a grand jury for official corruption, and they must answer to the charge in the criminal court. While the law presumes every man to be innocent until he is proven guilty by the unanimous verdict of a jury, the city council, as the guardian of the public welfare, cannot allow the two indicted officers any longer to continue in the exercise of the functions of their office. The council must demand their immediate resignations, and if they refuse it has grounds enough for impeachment and removal. It is not necessary to await a criminal conviction in the courts, on charges of bribery and perjury. There is sufficient cause for the immediate removal of the mayor and marshal upon charges that can be established without a tedious trial.

First, as to the mayor, the constitution of Nebraska expressly provides that drunkenness shall be cause for removal from office of any state or municipal officer. The fact that Mayor Chase has brought scandal upon the city by habitual drunkenness since he has been in office, and by his intemperance has been rendered unfit for the performance of his official duties, can be established by scores of unimpeachable witnesses. That alone would warrant his removal. That his intemperate habits, coupled with a peculiar nervous temperament, have deranged him mentally and made him a moral wreck, can also be shown, and on this ground of disability the council would be perfectly justified in removing him. Lastly, the notorious failure of the mayor to enforce the laws and protect the community would be a sufficient ground for removal.

Second, as to the marshal, the fact that he has utterly failed to perform his duties as defined in the charter and ordinances affords a basis for his removal, even without his indictment by the grand jury. The charter provisions as to the removal of officers are embodied in substance in chapter 30 of the revised ordinances, as follows:

SECTION 1. Whenever any officer of

this city, whether appointed by the city council, or elected by the qualified voters of the city, or of any ward thereof, shall become habitually intemperate, or in any way incompetent to the discharge of the duties of his office, or become grossly negligent in the discharge of his duties, or shall refuse to pay over any money in his hands belonging to the city, or to present his books or accounts to the proper officer or committee of the council for examination, adjustment or settlement, or shall be guilty of any other misconduct in office, either in refusing to obey the lawful orders or resolutions of the city council, or to execute the ordinances of the city, or in any other manner, such officer shall at once be removed from office, by the mayor, with the consent or by the advice of a majority of all the members of the city council.

Section 4 says that at the close of the arguments the council, by a vote of yeas and nays, shall determine as to the truth of the charges or any of them. If the charge or charges, or any of them, are sustained the council may take such action in declaring the removal from office of the person accused as to them may seem proper. The mayor by and with the consent of the city council may suspend any officer from office, whenever charges have been preferred against him, and pending the trial of the same, and may fill the temporary vacancy by appointment, except in case of the trial of any member of the city council; and in case the mayor is suspended the president of the council shall act as mayor.

That the council can at once suspend the marshal, who is simply an employee of the city is obvious by the above. It is right to suspend the mayor is recognized by the ordinance which was drawn by Mayor Chase himself. The charter is not very specific with reference to the suspension of the mayor, but the right to suspend is given by inference and sustained by precedent. The section of the charter relating to vacancies reads as follows:

"When any vacancy shall happen in the office of mayor by death, resignation, absence from the city, removal from office, or otherwise, the council, by a vote of yeas and nays, shall determine as to the truth of the charges or any of them. If the charge or charges, or any of them, are sustained the council may take such action in declaring the removal from office of the person accused as to them may seem proper. The mayor by and with the consent of the city council may suspend any officer from office, whenever charges have been preferred against him, and pending the trial of the same, and may fill the temporary vacancy by appointment, except in case of the trial of any member of the city council; and in case the mayor is suspended the president of the council shall act as mayor."

It is self-evident that the clause "or otherwise" refers to suspension from office pending an impeachment trial, else what reference does the other clause have when it says that the president of the council shall act as mayor until such vacancy be filled or such disability removed?

What disability is there that would cause a vacancy, unless it be the disability caused by suspension? In the case of Ex-Governor Butler the supreme court, at the request of the legislature, gave a semi-official opinion that the presentation of articles of impeachment operated as a suspension of the governor, which could only be removed by his acquittal; and David Butler was accordingly suspended from the day the articles of impeachment passed the house. Meantime the secretary of state performed the duties of governor.

OMAHA'S CREDIT. In the Bee of last Friday there appeared an article on the subject of Denver's decay and Omaha's prosperity. Besides noting the fact that there are a large number of vacant buildings in Denver, and that business is almost dead, it was stated that the \$300,000 city bonds, which had been liberally advertised, at an expense of \$500 in New York and Boston, had no takers, and remained unsold in the city clerk's office. By way of comparison we stated that "with Omaha's bonds by the hundreds of thousands, bearing five or six per cent, commanding a premium, some as high as two per cent, at home and abroad, we can smile serenely at Denver's boasts of financial greatness and growth."

City Treasurer Buck says that the Bee might have stated Omaha's claims to financial credit a little more strongly. For the last two years Omaha has sold \$150,000 of 6 per cent bonds at from 8 1/2 to 10 1/2 per cent premium, and \$270,000 of 5 per cent bonds at from par to 1 1/2 per cent premium. Of these bonds \$170,000 of 5 per cent were sold at about the same time that Denver's failed to sell. All this has been done without any advertising in papers outside of Omaha. All the advertising for the sale of nearly half a million of Omaha's bonds has not cost the city \$100.

This is certainly a very creditable showing for Omaha. There is no city in the country that has better credit than Omaha. Her bonds always command a good premium, and are eagerly sought for by eastern investors.

SURVEYOR GENERAL ATKINSON, of New Mexico, is still fighting for his retention in office. He has sent Col. Breeden, attorney general of New Mexico, all the way to Washington to plead in his behalf. Col. Breeden has the audacity to say that General Atkinson, in the disposition of hard cases, has secured to the government during his official career over 3,000,000 acres of domain, that he has acquired an experience and familiarity with New Mexico land owners, which it would require a new man many years to do, and that General Atkinson has been not only a faithful but an honest official and should be retained. This is indeed an audacious statement in view of the fact that Atkinson is the notorious head and front of a ring of land-grabbers and plunderers composed of such men as Steve Elkins and Steve Dorney. The retirement of Atkinson means the exposure of the crooked operations of the whole gang, and hence the desperate fight in his behalf. Atkinson has played a big game in New Mexico, as well as a big game of poker, and is charged with misdemeanors of all sorts that ought to have been the cause of his removal long ago. His commission expired last winter, and his further retention in office is not in the interest of honest government and public morals. He is altogether too familiar with the big land owners of New Mexico.

THE SWAIN COURT-MARTIAL.

The court-martial of Judge Advocate General Swain will be held in Washington some time during the present month. On account of the high rank and hitherto excellent reputation of the accused, and by reason of the fact that the court will be composed of officers of equal or superior rank, the trial will attract more than ordinary attention. General Swain's rank is that of brigadier-general, and hence no officer below that rank can, under the army regulation, serve on the court-martial. General Hancock will probably act as president of the court.

The calling of the court-martial is the result of the court of inquiry which found that the evidence against General Swain warranted a trial. It appears from the evidence that a Washington broker, named Bateman, received from General Swain \$5,000 on deposit, for which a due bill was given to Swain, who, in the course of time, checked out the whole amount, and then brought suit to recover on the due bill. General Swain also induced Bateman to advance money to Colonel Morrow on his duplicate pay account, Swain, as it is charged, did this knowing that Morrow's pay accounts had been duplicated. Bateman, in order to make himself whole, made charges in the war department against Swain, but owing to promises of settlement of the matter, soon after withdrew them, giving as his reason therefor that he had induced Swain to have the matter arbitrated. This course of procedure, however, did not meet the views of Secretary of War Lincoln, who determined that, as the charges had been made public and had caused a scandal upon the army, the affair could not be dropped in any such way. Secretary Lincoln accordingly summoned a court of inquiry, consisting of Generals Pope, Augur and Sackett, and Major Scott, who reported evidence showing very discreditable and dishonest transactions on the part of Swain. The probability is that General Swain will be convicted. His trial will be followed by that of Col. Morrow, who is charged with obtaining money on duplicate pay accounts, and he, too, will very likely be convicted. These convictions, no doubt, will have a salutary effect upon such army officers as are inclined to be in any way dishonest. There certainly has been, of late years, a great deal of dishonesty among army officers, particularly in the matter of duplicating their pay accounts and making fraudulent vouchers.

THE UNION PACIFIC DOES GO INTO THE HANDS OF A RECEIVER, it is hoped that it will go out of the hands of the politicians.

POLITICAL POP COIN.

Powell Clayton thinks that the man who laughs last takes the cake. George William Curtis and the other independent scoundrels saw their own boats.

The Chicago Iron Ocean says that chickens hatched in July always have the gaps.

It is rumored that the Edmunds boom had been purchased by a syndicate of Chicago locusts.

Keep cool and let the politicians do the springing. Your vote will count at the proper time.

The favorite song among the independents at present is, "O don't you remember sweet Edmunds, Ben Bolt."

The Plumed Knight of Maine and the Black Eagle of Illinois are in the best sense of the term "half follows, well met."

OUR ASSESSMENT.

The assessment in this city and county has been an outrageous fraud and imposition for years. It has been ridiculously low, and as a consequence the taxes have been apparently high. People make a mistake when they think that a low assessment is a benefit. When a stranger is told that our assessment is very low, he asks how much our taxes are, and when informed that they are about 5 per cent, it strikes him that they are enormously high. Now, if the valuation of property was a anywhere near its actual value, or even one-half of its value, our taxes would not be over 2 per cent. What we want, and what the Bee has been demanding for years, is a fair valuation of property and an impartial assessment. Under the present system the rich man escapes paying a large proportion of his taxes, and the poor man is the one who really bears the burden of taxation. We had hoped to see a reform in the assessment this year, but we have been disappointed. The returns made by the assessors show that they have not raised the assessment this year over \$500,000 above the assessment of 1883. No sane man will for one moment believe that the value of property in Omaha has not increased during the past fourteen years. Everybody knows that business property has increased in value from one hundred to five hundred percent, and that a great deal of outside real estate has advanced ten-fold. Yet we find the aggregate assessment at about the same figures that it was in 1870. The other day the Solomon property, on Farnam street, was sold for \$20,000, and E. B. Callahan sold his property on the same street for \$15,000. We venture to say that the assessed valuation on either of these properties is not over \$2,000 or \$3,000. But it is in the additions to the city that the biggest frauds are found. Lots which are selling at \$500 are assessed at \$25 or \$50. It is high time for a reform in the matter of assessment, and the Bee proposes to continue its efforts in this direction. If we cannot get it through the assessors we will get it through a revision of the laws at the next session of the legislature next winter.

BLAINE AND THE BLIND. The Presidential Candidate's Life in Philadelphia as a Teacher—A Remarkable Example of His Industry. Philadelphia Press.

"Yes, I remember young James G. Blaine distinctly," said William Chapin, principal of the Pennsylvania institution for the instruction of the blind, yesterday. "He was principal teacher here on the boys' side for two years, and when he departed he left behind him not only universal regret at a serious loss to the institution, but an impression of his personal force upon the work and its methods which surmises the lapse of twenty years."

The Pennsylvania institution for the instruction of the blind, at Twentieth and Race streets, the second place in which Mr. Blaine taught after his graduation from Washington College. He rang the bell at the front door of the building one summer afternoon in 1852, in answer to an advertisement for a teacher. "There were thirty or forty applicants," said Mr. Chapin, "but his manner was so winning and he possessed so many manifestly valuable qualities that I closed an engagement with him at once. He was married, and his wife and little son Walker came here with him. His qualities which impressed me most deeply were his culture, the thoroughness of his education, and his unflinching self-possession. He was also a man of very decided will, and was very much disposed to argument. He was young then—only 22—and was rather impetive, leaning to a conclusion very quickly. But he was always ready to defend his conclusions, however suddenly he seemed to have reached them. We had many a familiar discussion in this very room, and his arguments always astonished me by the knowledge they displayed of facts in history and politics. His memory was remarkable, and seemed to retain details which ordinary men would forget."

"Now, I will show you something that illustrates how thoroughly Mr. Blaine mastered anything he took hold of," said Mr. Chapin, as he took from a desk in the corner of the room a thick quarto manuscript-book, bound in dark, brown leather, and lettered "JOURNAL OF WILLIAM CHAPIN, PRINCIPAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND, 1852-1854." This book Mr. Blaine compiled with great labor from the minute books of the board of managers. It gives a historical view of the institution from the time of its foundation up to the time of Mr. Blaine's departure. He did all the work in his own room, telling no one of it until he left. Then he presented it, through me, to the board of managers, who were both surprised and gratified. I believe they made him a present of \$100 as a thank-offering for an invaluable work."

Indeed, this book, the first historical work of Mr. Blaine, is a model of its kind. On the titlepage, in ornamental hand-work, executed at that time by Mr. Chapin, is the inscription:

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"I think that the book," remarked Mr. Chapin, "illustrates the character of the man in accurate mastery of facts and orderly presentation of details. We still use it for reference, and Mr. Frank Battles, the Assistant Principal, is bringing the record down to the present time."

The methodical character of the work is most remarkable. On the first page every abbreviated name in the book is entered alphabetically. The first entry reads: "On this day the four following pages will be found some notes in regard to the origin of the Pennsylvania institution for the instruction of the blind, furnished by L. Francis Fisher, Esq." From this page to the 188th, in which is the last entry made by Mr. Blaine, every line is a model of neatness and accuracy. On every page is a wide margin. At the top of the margin is the year, in ornamental figures. Below it is a brief statement of what the text contains opposite that portion of the marginal entry. Every year's record closes with an elaborate table, giving the attendance of members of the board. The last pages of the book are filled with alphabetical list of officers of the institution and statistical tables, compiled by the same patient and untiring hand. One of the lists is that of the "principal teachers." No. 13 is followed by the signature, "James G. Blaine, from August 5, 1852, to—," and then, in another hand, the record is completed with the date November 23, 1854. "I recall one incident," Mr. Chapin continued, "which indicates Mr. Blaine's mode of discipline, and shows,

other students, why, it would be President Logan.

As soon as Mr. Tilden heard that Butler had received the greenback nomination he withdrew from the game. A full hand beats a straight.

Charles Francis Adams, Jr., will attend the democratic convention at Chicago. This in a comfortable, comfortable atmosphere during the session.

We have it upon good authority that Carl Shurtz has started in upon a crazy quilt and will not get it finished until long after the 1st of November.

Eugene Hale was busy during the campaign and convention and had to go fishing. The fishing will be good after election for Senator Hale.

Albion Tourgee predicts Blaine's defeat. This is the same Tourgee who but a few weeks ago yelled to the country that Robert Lincoln was the "coming man."

The country breathes a little easier, but it is a terrible strain while it lasted. Strain it is unnecessary to say, rhymes with Maine and Blaine, also champagne.

The political atmosphere will not cool off until the November breeze blows. It will then be a cold day for the man who fails to capture the presidential chair.

And in Tammany was a voice heard; John Kelley was weeping for his Tilden, and refusing to be comforted because he was not in the race so that he might knife him.

The democratic managers will open at Chicago July 8 with the largest and most varied collection of ancient and modern curiosities ever placed before the public in this country.

Blaine's name is composed of six letters. He was nominated on Friday which is spelled with six letters, the sixth day of the week, the sixth day of the month and the sixth month of the year.

If the ladies could vote they would all support Logan, because he has such an "awfully lovely" mustache. To the male eye, however, Black Jack's facial adornment is more awful than his love.

Wanted, a man to beat Blaine. Must not be too old, and should have a bar'l with two bungs. First class guarantee required. Address for three weeks Chairman National Democratic Committee, Chicago.

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too, that he was in those days somewhat impulsive. It was one of his duties to sometimes take the boys at breakfast, and sometimes there would be a few lazy lags. One morning a whole room-full of boys, five or six of them, failed to appear. Mr. Blaine quietly walked up stairs and locked them in. The boys had a screw-driver and they unfurnished the lock; but by the time they reached the breakfast room the tables had been cleared. "You can have no breakfast," was the teacher's announcement. The boys thereupon declared that they wouldn't go into Mr. Blaine's class, and he reported them to me. Altho' I thought it perhaps a little severe to deprive them of breakfast, I felt obliged to sustain Mr. Blaine, and told them to go to their class-rooms as usual. They still refused and I suspended them for the day. The next day they rose in time to breakfast, attended classes, and the little rebellion was over."

Mr. Blaine taught mathematics, in which he excelled, and the higher branches. His wife was universally beloved, and often read aloud to the pupils. When he went away to become editor of the *Kennebec Journal* we felt that we had lost a man of large parts and we have watched his upward career with great interest. Yes, indeed, we're all for Blaine here. He has called here a number of times when he stopped in the city on his way to and from Washington. The last time he was here he heard with great interest of the progress of D. D. Wood, the blind organist at St. Stephen's Church, who was one of his pupils, and recalled Mr. Wood's proficiency in mathematics."